

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/986,410

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 14-16 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1, 6, 7-11, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mueller et al. (US 6,373,074, hereafter “Mueller”). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mueller in view of Kohda et al. (US 5,151,604, hereafter “Kohda”). Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mueller in view of Kohda and further in view of Goodman et al. (US 5,874,744, hereafter “Goodman”). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mueller in view of Kohda and Goodman and further in view of Ohta (US 5,381,017).

Claim 14 is objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 7-11 are objected to because they are designated as being withdrawn. The Examiner contends that this designation is incorrect, even though the Examiner withdrew claims 7-11 from further consideration in the Office Action dated January 30, 2004.

By the present Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 7-11.

In the June 1 Amendment, Applicant argued that Mueller does not include a radiation source for recording the image and it would not have been obvious to include the radiation source. In the “Response to Arguments,” the Examiner asserts that Mueller states that the apparatus may be inserted directly into an x-ray table or conventional x-ray unit such that removal of the cassette for reading out is not required (col. 10, lines 45-58). The Examiner further asserts that conventional x-ray units inherently (or obviously) include an x-ray irradiation

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source and that the limitation of not requiring removal for readout inherently suggests the apparatus be used in conjunction with an irradiation source.

Also in the Amendment, Applicant argued that Mueller does not disclose the recited line sensor and line source disposed only on one side of the stimuable phosphor sheet. In response to this argument, the Examiner asserts that FIG. 1 of Mueller discloses these features of the claims. The Examiner cites Goodman as allegedly disclosing these features also.

By the present Amendment, Applicant amends claims 2 and 3 by rewriting them in independent form including the limitations of claims 5 and 14. Also, Applicant amends claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 5 and 14. Claims 5 and 14 are canceled herein. Since claim 14 has been indicated as being allowable, Applicant submits that claims 1-4, 6, 15 and 16 are allowable.

Additionally, on line 11 of claim 1, Applicant amends the claim by changing “have” to “has.” Also, the limitations of claim 1 of a line sensor disposed on only one side of the stimuable phosphor sheet and a linear light source disposed on only one side of the stimuable phosphor sheet are deleted by the present Amendment. In conjunction with these deletions, Applicant adds the features of “disposed on only one side of the stimuable phosphor sheet” to the recitations of a line sensor and a linear light source, which are recited in lines 21-24 of the amended claim. These changes to the line sensor and linear light source features of the claim are made to remove redundant recitations of these features in the claim. These changes to claim 1 are also made in amended claims 2 and 3.


In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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